

From: Gareth Paxton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 11:29pm
Subject: microsoft settlement

Dear Sir/Madam

As a BeOS user in the UK I am all too aware of the microsoft stranglehold on the IT industry as a whole.

The most worrying part of the problem was the OEM bootloader licence and its classification as a trade secret. OEMs were obliged to refuse complimentary operating systems but were unable to offer reasons. This situation is resonant of certain device manufacturers who are 'unable' to release the information needed for support on non MS platforms, for no apparent reason.

This is most applicable to 'winmodems' which cut Linux and BeOS off from the net - where all the tech support is. MS would have to licence the Windows API to manufacturers, and could include a non disclosure clause to prevent support on other platforms. With 'trade secrets' as they are we may never know.

The Legal situation is prohibitive and has held the IT industry back for years, where the richest corps with the best lawyers can cripple the competition. Advanced, faster, more reliable and free operating systems. Bear that in mind next time your PC crashes - how would you feel if your windows box was in control of a life support machine? I would sleep easy if it was my BeOS box.

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Thanks

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